



# NEWS RELEASE

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## HUDGENS ANNOUNCES 2012 WINNERS OF LIFE, FIRE & SAFETY AWARDS

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens presented awards Thursday recognizing winners of the annual “Excellence in Fire Safety” awards, and the winning students of the statewide Fire Safety Poster and Essay contests.

Commissioner Hudgens presented the awards at the 2012 “Life, Fire, and Safety” Awards Banquet in Forsyth, Ga. The annual banquet was held in conjunction with the observance of National Fire Prevention Month.

“The individuals we honored today have made a personal effort to improve fire safety for all Georgians,” Commissioner Hudgens said.

### **Winners of the “Excellence in Fire Safety” Awards were:**

Firefighter of the Year – Royce Bottoms Barrow County Department  
Fire Official of the Year – Lt. Aaron Fuller Barrow County Department  
Fire Safety Educator of the Year – Sherri Yearta – Douglas County Fire Department  
Fire Safety Prevention Program of the Year – City of Monroe Fire Department  
Citizens Award of Courage (17 and under) – Cooper Davis – Johns Creek, Georgia  
Citizens Award of Courage (18 and older) – Miller Jenkins – Augusta, Georgia  
Citizens Award of Courage (18 and older) – Felande D. Ross, II – Augusta, Georgia

Contestants in the poster and essay contests were required to reflect this year’s theme, Fire Drills: **“Have Two Ways Out,”** in the entries they submitted.

### **First-place winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest were:**

Jeremiah Lawrence – Kindergarten – Pike County Elementary School – Zebulon  
Joy Dikko – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Russell Elementary School – Smyrna  
Ty Griffin – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Pike County Elementary School – Zebulon  
McKenzie Simpson – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Dames Ferry Elementary School – Gray  
Olivia Yang – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Wilson Elementary School – Johns Creek  
Alexander Hunter – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Austin Road Elementary School - Stockbridge

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**First-Place winner of the Fire Safety House Essay Contest were:**

Zamir Anderson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – C. L. Gideon Elementary School – Atlanta

**First-place winners of the Fire Safety Essay, open to all students from grades six through 12, were:**

Colt Sullivan – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Faith Christian Academy – Griffin

Malik J. Lewis – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Georgia Cyber Academy – Atlanta

Heidi Collett – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dawson County Middle School – Dawsonville

Kelsey Meaney – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Georgia Cyber Academy – Atlanta

Kameron Watson – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Valdosta High School – Valdosta

Rebecca Campbell – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - Valdosta High School – Valdosta

Larry Florentine – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dawson County High School – Dawsonville

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